

regional service, preference would be given to it with the coming of INSAT-2. As far as Gujarat is concerned, it is well covered that is 99 per cent by AIR and 76.8 per cent by Doordarshan.

SHRI CHHEDIPASWAN Mr Speaker, Sir, Vividh Bharati Programmes broadcast from Patna station of AIR or the Doordarshan news bulletin telecast 7.30 p.m. does not cover the entire Bihar. May I know from the hon. Minister by what time action would be completed to cover the entire Bihar, so that all the people of Bihar are able to hear the news?

[English]

SHRI AJIT PANJA We are seriously going by the advice given at that time by the engineers to cover the whole of Bihar by micro wave. Now satellites have come. For that reason, we have already covered five States and our whole idea is to cover all the 25 States and 7 Union territories by the end of the Eighth Plan provided all those Plans which we have submitted to the Planning Commission are approved.

[Translation]

Upper Tapi Project

*451 **SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) the present position of the Upper Tapi project phase II in regard to Khena Gutghat Dam, Navatha Diversion dam, Khena Left bank Canal, Navatha Right Canal and Hainoo Right Bank Canal

(b) the details of land to be irrigated by the project in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed, and

(d) the expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) (a) to (d) after examination of the report of Upper Tapi Stage II, which envisaged annual irrigation of about 46,700 hectares in Madhya Pradesh and 59,800 hectares in Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 303 crores, the States have been advised to send a modified report keeping in view the observations made by the Central Water Commission. The modified report has not been received at the Centre. The time for completion and expenditure involved can be determined after receipt of the modified report here.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Maharashtra Government has made any recommendation regarding including upper Tapi project Phase II in the Eighth Five Year Plan? If not, why has the earlier three-phased project been suspended in between when its first phase was about to be completed?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA Mr Speaker, Sir, no proposal to include the aforesaid project in the Eighth Five Year plan has been received from Maharashtra Government. Although, our national policy is to complete those projects on priority basis on which work has already been started. We had raised this issue with the Maharashtra Government. It is hoped that they will agree on its inclusion in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR The reasons for delay in preparing the modified report as per the advice of Central Water Commission and the work completed in 1991-92 on the second phase of this project and the work proposed to be completed by the Government during 1992-93?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA As I have stated earlier, the report of this project has already been sent to the Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh Governments. They have been asked to furnish the certain information and clarifications required in connection.

tion with implementation of this project. The required information has not so far been received from the Maharashtra Government.

However, the Madhya Pradesh Government has informed a few days ago that they will soon assess their technical requirements and inform the Central Government about them. As regards Maharashtra Government, we have not received any reply from them and after waiting for a year this project has been sent back to Maharashtra Government.

SHRI RAM KAPASE: The hon. Member has just now informed that after waiting for a year for the report from the Maharashtra Government they have sent it back to Maharashtra Government. When was it sent and what information has been sought from them?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: The project was sent back to the Maharashtra Government around three years back.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Please state the date on which it was sent and the information sought from them?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: It was sent back around three years back. I do not have with me the exact date and month. The clarification sought by us was mainly technical and pertaining to hydrology or in other words it was about the availability of water and other essential items which are time and again required and about the proper utilisation of funds allocated for the purpose. That is why, it was precisely sent to them. I hope to receive information in this regard very soon.

Crossbar system in Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan

452. **PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the telephone exchanges in Rajasthan wherein crossbar and other systems are functioning;

(b) whether crossbar system continuously remains out of order;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to change the said system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYA NAIDU): (a) the cross-bar type telephone exchanges in Rajasthan circle are:

Ajmer (8000 lines) Penta Conta Cross-bar.

Jodhpur (8000 lines) Penta Conta Cross-bar.

Jaipur (10, 000 lines) Japanese C-4000 Exchange.

The number and capacities of other types of telephone systems in Rajasthan are given in the Statement placed on the Table of the House.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The exchanges which are life expired and unsatisfactory in performance are being replaced progressively.

(e) It is planned to replace these exchanges in phases during the 8th and 9th Five year Plans.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although, the hon. Minister has given a detailed answer, but I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Communications whether it is a bitter reality that 8000 lines Penta conta cross-bar exchange to